under NFSM-Pulses. The NFSM envisages to achieve an additional production of 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes of rice, wheat and pulses, respectively in the identified districts of the country by the year 2011-12 including the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The major gain in production is envisaged from enhancing the productivity in rice and wheat and area expansion under pulses.

(d) Besides, NFSM, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse cereals based Cropping System Areas are also being implemented through Macro Management Mode for the development of rice, wheat and coarse cereals in non-NFSM districts. For the development of pulses in existing areas, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) is in operation in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is also in operation in the state of holistic development and achieving 4% growth in agriculture including foodgrains.

Permission sought by farmers from President of India for suicides

776. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several farmers have sought permission of President of India to end their lives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the lives of these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not received any communication in this regard so far.

(c) In order to address the problem of suicides by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 districts in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. In addition, a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers was announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 in order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers.

Government of India has also launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana aiming to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector so as to achieve 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan.

Irregularities in distribution of PM/CM relief to farmers in Vidarbha

777. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has recently ordered an inquiry into the multicrore scam in PM and CM relief package meant to help the families of the farmers who committed suicide in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, whether the relief announced by the PM/CM have not reached in the hands of actual sufferer;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to book the culprits and ensure that such relief reaches in the hands of actual sufferer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopal Reddy, Director General, Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, Amravati has been constituted by the Government of Maharashtra on 15th September, 2008 to enquire into the reports regarding incorrect selection of the beneficiaries under the Central and State Government's rehabilitation packages for the farmers in the identified suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and to ascertain the truth and take action, if necessary. This Committee has been constituted on receipt of reports from certain quarters including the press about the benefits of Central and State Government's rehabilitation packages not reaching to the intended beneficiaries.

Crops Insurance Schemes in U.P.

778. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the crops covered under insurance schemes for farmers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the hectares of various crops covered under insurance during the last three years and premium amounts collected therefor;

(c) the details of crop insurance claims disbursed during the said period as compared to premium paid;

(d) the details of complaints received from farmers in regard to non-payment of crop insurance; and

(e) the steps taken to increase crop coverage and widen the nature of insurance cover specially in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Statement indicating details of crops, area insured, premium collected and claims disbursed under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) during last three years (crop season-wise) is given (*See* below).

(d) All the admissible claims under NAIS are settled/paid as per provisions of the scheme. However, some complaints from farmers are received from time to time. Some of the complaints are: delayed payment of claims, under payment of claims on account of incorrect submission of insurance proposals by banks; unrealistic assessment of crop loss due to large unit area of insurance etc. As far as possible, all the complaints are suitably addressed.

(e) The Government and the Implementing Agency make efforts by way of extension and publicity programmes to increase the coverage under NAIS.

The Government is considering to widen the scope and nature of coverage by modifying the present scheme.